

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2315

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, NO

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER OFFERS TO CONSULT ON SVALBARD FISHERY CONSER-
VATION ZONE

REFS: (A) STATE 200821, (B) OSLO 3844, (C) OSLO 3764, (D) STATE
187672

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AUGUST 16
I EXPRESSED ONCE AGAIN OUR DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH NORWEGIANS
AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME ON DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR POLICY CONCERNING
A POSSIBLE FISHERY ZONE AROUND SVALBARD.

2. DISCUSSING NORWEGIAN LEGISLATION SCENARIO, FRYDENLUND
REVIEWED SCHEDULE OUTLINED BY MFA LEGAL ADVISER ELIASSEN (OSLO
3844). HE CNFIRMED THAT PLANS ARE FOR PROPOSED ENABLING LEGIS-
LATION FOR 200- MILE NORWEGIAN ECONOMIC ZONE TO GO TO CABINET
FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL ON AUG 27. WHILE LEGISLATION WILL GIVE
GOVERNMENT POWER TO EXTEND ECONOMIC ZONES, HE SIAD, IT WILL NOT
MENTION WHERE ZONES WILL APPLY OR WHEN THEY MIGHT BE INTRODUCED.
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NEITHER WILL IT SPECIFICALLY MENTION JAN MAYEN OR SVALBARD,

ALTHOUGH INTERPRETIVE MATERIAL ATTACHED TO THE LEGISLATIVE TEXT WILL MAKE IT CLEAR LEGISLATION COULD APPLY THERE. IF APPROVED IN CABINET, LEGISLATION WILL BE FORWARDED TO PARLIAMENT FOR ITS CONSIDERATION THIS FALL.

3. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT ONCE GON HAS THE DOMESTIC AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ECONOMIC AND FISHERY ZONES, IT WILL THEN HAVE TO DECIDE WHEN AND WHERE SUCH ZONES WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. HE SAID PLANS ARE TO ESTABLISH A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND NORWAY BUT IT IS NOT RPT NOT THEIR INTENTION TO INTRODUCE SUCH A ZONE AROUND SVALBARD. GON HAS MADE NO ANNOUNCEMENT ON LATTER MATTER AND I DO NOT BELEIVE THEY PLAN TO IN NEAR FUTURE. (ELIASSEN EARLIER MENTIONED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE WHICH IS CONSIDERING FISHERY OR ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND SVALBARD AND THAT IT WOULD NOT MAKE FINAL DECISION ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF HANDLING SVALBARD UNTIL AFTER CONSULTING WITH US IN FALL BILATERAL TLAKS ON SVALBARD (OSLO 3844).)

4. THE MINISTER SAID THAT SOME FORM OF REGUALATION WOULD BE REQUIRED AROUND SVALBARD TO CONSERVE FISH STOCKS. HE FELT SURE THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD OBJECT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND NORWAY. BUT, SINCE HE DID NOT ENVISAGE ESTABLISHING AND ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND SVALBARD, HE FELT THAT THE US WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THE BASE PRINCIPLE OF ZONE ESTABLISHMENT.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER(NOW LOINED BY LEGAL ADVISER ELIASSEN) EXPRESSED SENSITIVITY TO THE "SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION" DEVELOPED IN HIS MAY TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY ON SVALBARD. REFERRING TO OUR DESIRE TO CONSULT BEFOR GON'S POLICY CONCERNING SVALBARD FISHERIES WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, FRYDENLUND SAID NORWEGIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE US OFFICIALS AT ANY TIME TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, EVEN BEFORE AUG 27 IF WE THOUGH IT NECESSARY. HE AND ELIASSEN BOTH THOUGHT THAT SUCH"EARLY" CONSULTATION WAS NOT NECESSARY, SINCE THERE WILL BE, IN THEIR MINDS, ADEQUATE TIME TO DISCUSS SVALBARD ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC AND FISHERIES ZONES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PROPOSED FALL BILATERAL TALKS.

6. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW CONSULTATIONS WITH NORWEGIANS BEFORE AUG 27 MANDATORY. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER A VISIT BY AN APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL, SENSITIVE TO THE NUANCES

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AND IMPLICATION OF THE PROPOSED GON LEGISLATION, MIGHT BE HELPFUL BEFORE THE FALL TALKS.SUCH AN EARLY VISIT MIGHT GIVE US A BETTER CHANCE TO HAVE OUR VIEWS FACTORED INTO THE NORWEGIAN CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED ENABLING LEGISLATION. ALSO, SUCH A VISIT MIGHT ALSO HELP US IN EVALUATING FURTHER THE ADVISABILITY OF SUBMITTING THE PROPOSED FORMAL US RESERVATION ON THE SVALBARD FISHERIES ZONE.

7. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THE FALL BILATERAL MEETING WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER SVALBARD FISHERIES MATTERS WITH NORWEGIANS. FRYDENLUND' STATEMENT THAT GON DOES NOT PLAN ESTABISH ECONOMIC ZONE AROUND SVALBARD INCLINES US TO VIEW THAT UNLESS THERE IS SOME UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT THE ARGUMENTS WE SET FORWARD IN OSLO 3764 FOR HODLING OFF ON A FORMAL SVALBARD FISHERY RESERVATION ARE STILL VALID, AND IN LIGHT OF THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE TONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS MATTER SUCH AS ACTION ON OUR PART WOULD PROBABLY SEEM HEAVY HANDED TO NORWEGIANS. WE WILL CONTINUE MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY AND BE PREPARED IMPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE 187672 IF APPROPRIATE.
ANDERS

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